

# A REPLY

TO A PAMPHLET

BY S. HENRY DICKSON, M.D.

ENTITLED

STATEMENTS, &c.

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## REPLY &c.

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It is with unfeigned regret that we find ourselves compelled to reply to a publication purporting to be "Statements in reply to certain publications from the Medical Society of South-Carolina, by S. Henry Dickson, M. D." But we have no alternative, for the gentleman in that pamphlet has broadly asserted, his and his colleagues belief, that the members of the Society were desirous of depriving them of their Chairs, in order that "they might divide the spoils of war." As we have succeeded some of these Professors in the College, it is peculiarly incumbent on, us not only to prove, that this opinion has no foundation in truth, but also to make a full reply to all the "Statements."

It has been invariably the case, whenever an individual finds he has committed an error, or his cause is weak, that he endeavours to supply, in sarcastic taunts and angry vituperations, his deficiency in argument and common sense; hence we cannot wonder at the sweeping denunciations of Dr. Dickson, against the members of the Medical Society, or be surprised at the attack made on the Judiciary, or the petulancy which he has exhibited, or the impossibility of discovering a single legitimate argument in his "Statements."

It has been somewhat amusing too, to observe the extreme modesty with which the author alludes to the merits of himself and his colleagues, in contradistinction to those of his and their opponents, as well as the contrast he has endeavoured to institute between those who were members of the Society in 1824, and those who were members in 1833. For the satisfaction of our readers, we will quote the passage, when it will be seen that it is as sophisticated as it is pregnant with vanity.

"But the phrase, 'Medical Society' is a vague and abstract term, which we only employed for convenience and in compliance with custom. A Society is a body composed of separate individuals, whom it may be, and often is, improper to confound together. The same general title will often include men whose principles and conduct are entirely at variance. Thus in the present instance the Medical Society means at one period, a body of men who built up a Medical School; at another, a body of men who destroyed the same School. In 1824, the Society is said to have collected a Class of 52, when without a local

habitation, or apparatus, or museum—in 1833, when Judge O’Neal had put it in possession of buildings and all other necessary appurtenances, the same Society could not collect a Class of one-fourth the number. Now *we* who were active on the first occasion, feel that we have a right to resent—and we resist resolutely, the endeavour to confound us with those who took the lead on the second; and we desire to draw a strong line of distinction between us, the founders of the College on the one hand, and its prosperous administrators; and those who on the other, are by virtue of legal technicalities, our *heirs*, and by appointment of the same Society, our *unsuccessful* successors.”

It would seem from these remarks, that the author considers himself and his colleagues as constituting the Society, for there was not a single member of the Medical Society, *not even Drs. P. G. Prioleau, or Logan*, who, he says, were their *only* friends, who advocated the course which they pursued after the election of Dr. Wagner; indeed, the former gentleman was opposed to the conduct of Dr. Dickson and his colleagues, and the majority of the members of 1824 were members in 1831. The fact is that in 1824, Dr. Dickson and his colleagues, as we will presently show, found they could not succeed without the aid of the Society, and in 1831, they, *having flourished under its auspices*, wished, not only to resist, but even to overthrow the power by which they were created.

In relation to the difference in the number of Students attending the respective schools, we can give the gentleman some reasons.

1st. The Medical College of South-Carolina, under the Society, was not organized until within a few weeks of the session, our Professor of Anatomy did not arrive until a fortnight *after* the opening of the session, and it was *industriously* circulated that he would not come at all.

2dly. The organization of the School could not be known until almost every Student had made up his mind.

3dly. Political excitement and Sectional feelings were brought into play, and because several distinguished members of the State Rights’ Party were appointed its Trustees, it was said that the new College was the College of the State, and because the College under the Society had some of its Professors who were not natives of Carolina (gentlemen to whom we take pleasure in paying every tribute of respect, and who proved that the *ONLY* charge which could be brought against them, was that they were not Carolinians) it was inferred that ours was a “Yankee School!” Although *we* were identified in every respect with the State, and volunteered our humble services in her cause, *we* despise the idea, that the College with which we are associated, should receive any aid from political prejudices. We would not thus prostitute Science, and would sooner see the College sunk

into oblivion than descend to any means of promoting its success, which, could for a moment, lessen the dignity of our profession. *We will not flatter any man or set of men*, because for a time they may have political power. We feel we have engaged in a holy cause; in defence of the chartered rights of the Medical Society; in defence of the honour of the profession; and, in the discharge of our duties we are prepared to encounter all the abuse and calumny which prejudiced minds may cast upon us. We cling to that best of mottos, "*Magna est veritas et prevalebit.*"

4th. Our competitors had not only, early in the spring, reorganized their College, but they had sent circulars throughout the country, and *rumor* says, that one of the Professors was himself on a travelling expedition. The feelings, too, of the Students, were excited in their favour, because, from *exparte* statements, it was believed, that the Medical Society wished to persecute them.

These were the concurrent causes, which made our class small. We did not expect to do more this session than merely reorganize. We have, however, made such arrangements, as we trust, will next year give the gentleman less cause of gratulation.

Having made these preliminary remarks, we will now enter into the merits of the question, of who were the founders of the College, and respond to Dr. Dickson's general observations, referring our readers to the Appendix, for the supply of deficiencies which he has carefully omitted in his extracts from the records of the Medical Society.

Although the Exposition of the Medical Society has clearly proved that, without the aid of that body, a Medical College would not then have been established, we will be content to take the Statements of Dr. Dickson, and rest the decision of the public upon these alone.

"In the meanwhile, and previous to the receipt of the Address of Dr. Cooper, and as early as the summer of 1821, Drs. Frost, Ramsay and Dickson, had formed the determination to erect in the City of Charleston, under whatever mode of arrangement they might find most practicable, a School of Medicine. The plan proposed by the two first, was by lecturing in the public institutions of the city, to the Students resident here, to collect a class, and obtain by persevering effort, reputation sufficient to enable them to procure a charter from the Legislature. The *last named physician* maintained that the only hopeful and proper foundation of such an institution, must be built upon a charter previously obtained. Dreading, however, with a foresight for which his PRESENT COLLEAGUES will give him due credit, any connexion with *Medical Trustees*, his first effort was to induce the Trustees of the Charleston College to receive as a Faculty, under their Charter, Professors or



Lecturers on the different branches of Medical Science, and grant Diplomas to the Classes as is done in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Lexington.

"After the failure of the Society's first memorial to the Legislature of the State, and on the 1st of February, 1823, Dr. Dickson offered a resolution to the Medical Society, setting forth, in strong terms, the propriety and advantage of the immediate establishment of a Medical College in Charleston, and moving the appointment of a Committee to enter forthwith on the necessary arrangements. The first step taken by the Committee, in correspondence with the views of the mover and first named member, was to make application to the Trustees of the Charleston College, to the above stated purport. They met with a peremptory refusal. On the 1st of April following they report this repulse—but go on to argue that all obstacles could be got over, if the power to grant Diplomas could from any source be obtained. They, therefore, urge the Society to prepare another petition to the Legislature, asking merely for this power, and leaving out all mention of appropriations of money, the reference to which, as a condition absolutely essential to success, had been the cause of their failure in the first instance."

Now what does this prove? Is it not conclusive beyond the shadow of a doubt, that the College was established, through the *influence and agency of the Medical Society*—the Charter granted to the *Medical Society*—the College formed—the regulations adopted which were to govern the College—the Professors appointed—the degrees conferred upon the Students *by the Medical Society*, through its President—the names of its Officers being affixed to its Diplomas, and its seal appended thereto? If this does not constitute a foundation, we know not what does. From *whom* did Dr. Dickson, and his colleagues receive their *Professorships*? Were they *self* constituted? It was from the MEDICAL SOCIETY, that much abused body!

Yet the gentleman says, "we owe the Society no *gratitude*!" Gratitude and friendship, where *interest* is concerned, in our days of refinement, are not much regarded. But it would astonish a Lecturer in Europe, or perhaps any where else, to hear an individual, whose object was to elevate himself into reputation and character, through the medium of delivering lectures, say that he owed nothing to a body having the power to confer degrees, when that body had elected him a Professor. What advantage has a Professor over a private Lecturer? It is this. The Lectures of Professors will entitle the person attending them to be a candidate for a Medical Degree. The attendance on a private Lecturer will *not*. Now, was this then no privilege, no advantage? And we will ask him how a College could have been established, without a power residing *some where* to confer degrees, or if any Students would attend such an institution? But the gentleman, in his extracts from the minutes, shews that he and his colleagues were among the

active agents in the establishment of the College. Had they no motive for this? Was it not to subserve their own purposes? Was it to benefit the Society or themselves?

After the Charter was obtained, the Medical Society advertised in papers, in different portions of the United States, inviting candidates to fill the different chairs, shewing that the College was not established for any particular individual, but for public good. But says Dr. Dickson :

"The result of this election was in exact accordance with an arrangement entered into among ourselves, before the Society was ever consulted at all upon the matter, or in any way referred to in the effort to get up a Medical College in the City of Charleston, with a single exception, Dr. Moultrie, jun."\*

If the gentleman had such dread of Medical Trustees, and had made this arrangement, does it not shew conclusively, that without the power and influence of the Medical Society, he could not have been successful? But we will let Dr. Dickson speak for himself, and the reader will see whether he *really* had such a dread of *Medical Trustees*. Our quotations will pretty clearly shew how plastic some mens' opinions are, and how easily they are moulded to suit their own purposes! The first quotation is from an Address by Dr. Dickson to the Medical Society in 1823, urging the importance of that body establishing a Medical School.

"If you agree with me, gentlemen, as to the importance of such an Institution, the advantage of its location here, and of its being commenced at the present time, you will at once feel and perceive the propriety and necessity of your acting as a body in its promotion. *The Medical Society can alone effect this object*, we are abundantly rich to do all that is sufficient, for little will be required; and our funds cannot

\* In a part of the Appendix, it is denied that there was a strong competition for most of the Chairs. We happen to have obtained from our friend, Dr. De La Motta, the original account of the candidates, and the number of votes given to each, which we will present.

<i>For Anatomy.</i> —		Dr. I. M. Campbell,.....	26	votes.
		Dr. J. E. Holbrook,.....	16	"
		Dr. Anderson,.....	1	"
<i>For Surgery.</i> —		Dr. Waring, of Georgia,.....	14	"
		Dr. James Ramsay,.....	30	"
		Dr. Sheffelin, of New-York,.....	2	"
<i>For Practice of Medicine.</i> —		Dr. Dickson was elected without opposition,		
		he having received.....	32	"
<i>For Materia Medica.</i> —		Dr. Frost was elected without opposition		
		he having received.....	29	"
<i>For Obstetrics.</i> —		Dr. T. G. Prioleau,.....	27	"
		Dr. J. De La Motta,.....	18	"
		Dr. Anthony, of Georgia,.....	0	"
<i>On Chemistry.</i> —		Dr. T. Y. Simons,.....	18	"
		Dr. E. Ravenel,.....	25	"

Stephen Elliott, Esq. was elected without opposition, to the chair of Natural History and Botany.

be devoted to a better purpose. The expense of a Lecture room and of adequate apparatus, will be comparatively trifling; and your Professorships will be occupied by men *less anxious for emolument than reputation, and the number of pupils will soon* be large enough to afford both.

“*The Medical Society alone has the power to unite upon this attempt the efforts of the whole community. Its sanction carries with it a weight possessed by no aggregate of unconnected individuals, however influential separately.*” The Legislature of our State would confide to it as a Board of Trustees of such an institution the right of granting formal Diplomas, far more willingly and cordially than to any knot of persons recently united. Finally, the Medical Society alone has the means of collecting and concentrating the influence and exertions of the profession in behalf of such an establishment—of obviating the ill effects of personal rivalry, and of making the appointment of Professors with the single eye to the general good, so as to carry the plan into operation, in the manner best calculated to secure its ultimate and permanent success.”\*

Yes, the Society did so. *Its influence and name*, first gave the Medical College a reputation; and did Dr. Dickson and his colleagues intend to make use of the Society as a mere means by which they might accomplish their ends, and when they *were* accomplished, *desert* that body? If such was the case, it was certainly, to use the mildest language, a breach of *trust*. But, to the second quotation, which is taken from an Address delivered by Dr. Dickson to the Students, in 1825.

“The Diploma of any College, must ultimately derive its value too from the personal character of its signers. Their names, however eminent they may be professionally, can add no weight to it, as a passport to public confidence, if they be not men of known and established integrity; for what other guarantee can there be against the actual sale of these documents, when every motive of interest is engaged to make the extension of them as wide, and the acquisition of them as easy as possible. The responsibility of the officers of such chartered institutions, is indeed serious, and should be kept steadily in view. They must, and should suffer in the eyes of the community, if they are careless of, or indifferent to the consequences of lightly placing in the hands of unprepared and unworthy youth, papers which are generally considered, or purport to be, certificates of ability and desert. Without reference to any particular body, I may declare that our country has had much to complain on this score, and the evil has been perhaps the worst result of the competition between the numerous schools, established within the neighbourhood of each other, all eager to extend their connections far and wide, all anxious therefore to in-

\* It must here be borne in mind that efforts were then making by Dr. Cooper and the Columbia Board, to have a Medical College in Columbia, or partly in Charleston and partly in Columbia.



crease the number of their alumni. It may be allowed me to point out what I consider the chief source of this unfortunate want of proper discrimination, and to mention the remedy which has been instituted for it in the School, of which you have become members. The Faculty, consisting of the Professors who fill the various chairs, have been in all other Medical Seminaries, the only court of inquiry into their standing. These are evidently interested men. In a great number, if not a large majority of instances, some one or more of them, may be directly or indirectly connected in some manner with him. Their prepossessions are, therefore, almost invariably in his favour. He is safe from all severe or injurious treatment from them. No appeal is required in *his* behalf. There is no danger of his being refused or rejected, unless on account of some glaring deficiencies, or an open and evident unworthiness of Medical rank. But it is not so with the community. They are not secure from the risk of having issued forth among them the fortunate, but empty, or it may be, vicious possessor of wealth and influence, on an equal footing with the meritorious son of talent, industry and moral worth. It is not so with the Profession. *They* may suffer by the introduction into their body, of impudent pretenders to knowledge, by whose insufficiency and ignorance, the good opinion of the world may be forfeited, and their confidence in the value of our art greatly diminished. They are not secure from the intrusion of intellect scarcely above contempt, nor from the contaminations of dangerous principles and disgraceful conduct. For them, then, an appeal is unquestionably demanded, and they have a right to require the appointment of an impartial tribunal, to determine questions, in which they have so much at stake. In the *school of South-Carolina, we have such a tribunal; there is appointed by the regulations of the Institution an impartial body*, which, well prepared to investigate the whole subject, is independent enough to carry into effect the decisions concerning it. Such a body is the Medical Society, under whose auspices this School of Medicine and Surgery, has been chartered and brought into operation. Without their sanction no diploma can be conferred, without their sanction, given deliberately, and in the face of a community, of which they form a highly respected portion, no individual can be added to the Medical family."

Do not these reasons apply now?

Much has been said about the exertions, and trials, and sacrifices of the Professors. But there were no sacrifices. The disposition to encourage a Southern Medical College was strong, and to secure encouragement, it was only necessary that it should be undertaken by a body, having the confidence of the public. A failure may, by some of the members, have been anticipated, from the circumstance that all of the Professors were young men without reputation or name; and there is not the least doubt, that the weight and influence of the Medical Society, in the first instance, alone inspired confidence, and produced success. As to pecuniary sacrifice, it is farcical, as we will presently shew; as to the sacrifice of

professional reputation they had none, at the time, to lose.\*— But grant that they had to encounter some sacrifices. What young man of ambition, who has to establish a reputation, would not submit to trials and sacrifices to obtain his end, and be thankful too, for a fair opportunity? Who has ever yet arrived at eminence in any profession, who has not had to contend with innumerable difficulties, and submit to many sacrifices; and how many are there, to use the beautiful allegory of Gray, who have

“ Been born to blush unseen,  
And waste their sweetness on the desert air,”

for want of opportunity to display their intellectual attainments. Surely, Dr. Dickson, will not deny, that he and his colleagues had no reputation, when they commenced their career as lecturers, and that the very circumstance of their being appointed *Professors*, and of the College being superintended by a body composed of *medical gentlemen*, gave them a reputation. No one has denied that they were active in promoting the welfare of the College, or discharging their duties to the best of their abilities, and we would not detract from them whatever reputation they may have earned. But it was *their duty* to make *all the exertion*, as they received *all the honour and profit*, and while they were to receive fees for their services, to which they certainly were entitled, and permitted to tax the Students, by matriculation and graduation fees, for the disbursement of incidental expenses, it was very properly resisted that they could claim *public benefactions* as their *own*. The money by which the buildings were erected, came from the general funds of the City and State, for which we are all taxed, and was intended for *public* and not for *individual* benefit. Will Dr. Dickson tell us of any College, where a Faculty were not the active agents, or has it ever, before the present instance, been main-

\* The following is taken from an Address delivered by Dr. Dickson before the Medical Society, shewing the advantage of establishing a Medical School in Charleston and the prospect of success :

“ I have in my possession a list of the Medical Students of this city, which I believe to be accurate; rather under, perhaps, than above the real number. This list contains the names of twenty-one, who are at present in Charleston, besides six who have gone to the Northern Schools, for the completion of their professional education. I have not been able to ascertain the number throughout the State; it cannot, however, be less than thirty more. Here, then, we have a beginning, with a class, at least, twice as large as that which commenced the Philadelphia School, for it cannot be doubted, that the very first course of Lectures will command the attendance of those within the city, and we have a right to expect that the whole number, belonging to the State, will, in the course of four or five years, at farthest, give the preference to the School nearest home.

“ Should our Institution acquire any degree of reputation, as indeed it must and will, PROVIDED the affair is governed by the MEDICAL SOCIETY, and obtains the unanimous support and united effort of the profession in Charleston, and in the State generally, it will collect pupils from all the neighbouring country in numbers proportioned to the standing it shall acquire.” So much for a dread of Medical Trustees by Dr. Dickson.

tained that in consequence of this agency, every grant of public money should be theirs? Was there ever a more absurd proposition? All Colleges must have Trustees. The members of the Medical Society were the Trustees, and they were the individuals who were to retain the buildings not *for their own use*, but the use of those who might *successively be appointed Professors*. Are not all institutions thus established? The question was *not* whether medical or non-medical Trustees were *best suited* for the government of a College. The members of the Medical Society were ALREADY Trustees. The Professors were Professors only through *their* suffrages; there was no other tenure by which they held their office. Any one may deliver private lectures; but to be a Professor, the appointment must come from, and the Professors be under the supervision of a body having power *to confer Degrees*, and when such honours are received, those who receive them are bound to comply with the *terms of agreement*. Was more, in this instance required? No. But having got *this* privilege, (and a great one it is considered in all countries,) Dr. Dickson and his colleagues, determined to advance farther, and wrest from those who created them, *all* power.

Shift and turn as the gentleman may—mystify as much as he pleases—and abuse and taunt as he will—the whole merits of the question are narrowed to *this point*. It is denied in the Exposition, and the denial is *reiterated*, that the members of the Medical Society ever intended to interfere with the legitimate rights of the Professors. On the contrary, the *Professors* were the *aggressors*. They were not content with the power they possessed, but wished to grasp more, and finding that the members of the Medical Society resisted what they considered efforts at usurpation of power, the next step of the Faculty was to cast odium on the Society, and endeavour to destroy its influence and character in the community, by bringing heavy charges before the Legislature, of oppression and injury, and exciting sympathy by the cry of jealousy, envy, and persecution. And by these plans they, for a time, have succeeded.

It has been said they were exposed to petty ill-will, and that prognostics in relation to their success were made. Was there ever a public man, or a public Lecturer who was not criticised? Do not Professors of all Colleges, no matter who are the Trustees, share the same fate? But, has Dr. Dickson been able to cite a single instance, where the Society, as a body, attempted to injure them? It seems, he imagines there has been one, which we will now consider. In 1831, Dr. Ramsay resigned as Professor of Surgery. Dr. Geddings and Dr. Wagner were candidates. There were 49 members present, the names of whom we think proper to mention before we consider the serious charge of Dr. Dickson. They were as follows:—



"August, 1831—Present, Drs. I. M. Campbell, Porcher, Bellenger, Wm. Lee, Alexander, Ball, Boyleston, Deas, *S. H. Dickson*, Finley, *Frost*, Geddings, Grimke, J. H. Glover, S. Glover, Hall, Hasell, *J. E. Holbrook*, M. Holbrook, Horlbæk, H. Holmes, W. A. Holmes, Howard, Hume, Hunt, I. A. Johnson, Joseph Johnson, J. F. Lee, D. Legare, Lesigneux, Linnig, Mazyck, J. Moultrie, sen. J. Moultrie, jun. E. North, P. G. Prioleau, *T. G. Prioleau*, Pratt, Ramsay, *Ravenel*, Read, Righton, B. B. Simons, T. Y. Simons, Smith, Stephens, Wagner, Waring, and Winthrop."

Dr. Wagner was elected by three votes. We will not be so indelicate as to mention the disparaging terms which were then used by his present colleagues of *him*, nor the indignation which Dr. Wagner *then felt against them*. But this we will say, that he considered himself as injured by the opposition which the Faculty made against him; because he had many years served as Demonstrator of Anatomy, as well as Professor of Pathological and Surgical Anatomy, (a chair, which gave no right to a seat with the Faculty, and the lectures of which the Students were not compelled to attend) and he therefore considered that he had a claim to be promoted to the Chair of Surgery. It is amusing, too, to see how changed is the tone of Dr. Dickson in relation to Dr. Wagner; a circumstance which shews pretty clearly that men often times form their friendships and their hates as interest points! But to the quotation.

"This election forms an important era in the existence of the College. The opposing candidates were Dr. Wagner and Dr. Geddings. The former, who now fills ably the Chair of Surgery in the Medical College of the State of South-Carolina, had an obvious right to seek his own advancement, and he did so fairly and honourably. But neither Dr. Wagner, nor any of his friends, can feel aggrieved at the avowed preference of the Faculty for Dr. Geddings. There is no need of drawing an invidious comparison between two gentlemen, both of whom we highly respect, to account for this partiality. Dr. Geddings was our pupil, a graduate of our School, whose attainments and rapid elevation had done us honour. He was the personal friend of several of us. He was intimately known to all our Classes, and was deservedly popular throughout our Southern country. He had been long engaged in zealous co-operation with us in every measure which could benefit the Institution or its pupils. It was therefore perfectly understood, that his election would be an immediate and permanent *advantage to us*, and hence arose the determined opposition and hostility to him, not as is now clear, to every one, and was soon felt by Dr. Wagner himself, from any friendship or good will to the latter. Dr. W., it is well known was chosen by a majority of three votes. In the whole conduct of this affair, the Society pointedly refused to recognize the existence of the Faculty, proceeding, indeed, as if there had been no such body. *They made no communication to us of the resignation of Dr. Ramsay*, whose letter was addressed to them. *They advertised for Candidates and went into the election without consultation or conference with us, and gave us no notice whatever of the appointment of a new colleague.*"

In reply to this ridiculous charge, that Dr. Wagner was voted for (no compliment surely to the Doctor) because the members believed that the election of Dr. Geddings would be a permanent advantage to the Faculty, we have only to give an extract from the minutes of the Medical Society. "Dr. Wagner was elected on the 1st of August, and on the 5th of September, Dr. Geddings offered himself as a candidate, and was unanimously elected Professor of Pathological and Surgical Anatomy," in the place of Dr. Wagner, who had previously occupied that Chair, and was transferred to the Chair of Surgery.

Now, this Chair, the Faculty, more than rumour says, would not consent to have put on an equal footing with their own, nor would they consent to the Students being compelled to attend the lectures; because the expense would be too great. If Dr. Geddings was of so much importance, should they not have consented to have him placed on an equal rank with themselves, and have made some pecuniary sacrifices, especially as they have since made an additional chair to secure the services of Dr. Moultrie, jun. who, with due deference to the gentleman, voted for Dr. Wagner? Can this be denied? How groundless, then, are the assumptions in relation to the motives which regulated the votes of the Society!

But again, says he, "in the whole conduct of this affair, the Society pointedly refused," (we deny this, for it was never asked and nothing can be refused which has never been asked,) "to recognize the Faculty, proceeding, indeed, as if there had been no such body. *They made no communication to us* of the resignation of Dr. Ramsay, whose letter was addressed to them. They advertised for candidates, and went into the election, without consulting or conferring with us, and gave us no notice whatever of the appointment of a new colleague."

Now we venture to assert that not a single member of the Society knew that any offence was taken by the Faculty. How could they? The Faculty were *members* of the Society, and some of them were *present* when the letter of resignation was read, and did not object when the advertisement for a successor was proposed, and Dr. Moultrie, jun. was the gentleman who offered the letter of resignation. In the interval between the advertisement for, and the day of election, they used all their influence to get their candidate elected; nor did they offer the slightest complaint to the form and manner of election, until it was decided in favour of Dr. Wagner. How absurd, then, the complaint now offered. But what shall we say to the language which follows: "We conscientiously believed at the time, and retain the opinion still, that those insults were studiously contriv-



ed to induce a general resignation of our chairs, when they would have been seized on and divided as spoils of war."

Such a gross and unwarrantable libel upon a Society composed of men of liberal education and elevated feelings, requires only to be mentioned to be duly estimated.

"But we determined, if possible, to disappoint our enemies. We drew up and presented to the Society a paper, protesting formally, against the establishment of such a precedent as was set by the proceedings described above, declaring our belief, that it was our right to be advised with in reference to the appointment of future colleagues, and maintaining that the best interests of the College, demanded such a consultation. We took care, however, to express our dissent to the *principles* which governed the Society in the management of the election, without impugning the validity of the *result*, in which we made known our reluctant acquiescence. Our paper was laid on the table, and a resolution was passed, on motion of *Dr. T. Y. Simons*, *denying our right to offer our protest.*"

The name of Dr. T. Y. Simons is here placed in italics, with the intention, apparently, as he was the successor of Dr. Dickson, of indirectly throwing odium on him, and in the Appendix Dr. Dickson has quoted from the minutes, omitting every other individual's name but that of Dr. Simons.

According to the minutes of September 5th, it appears that "Dr. Ravenel offered a protest against the principles which regulated the late election of Professor of Surgery, and after some discussion, on motion of Dr. Waring, it was *Resolved*, that in order to allow sufficient time for deliberation on so important a topic, the further consideration of the protest be postponed to next stated meeting, which was agreed to."

*October 1st*—Dr. Hunt proposed that the consideration of the protest of the Medical Faculty, be indefinitely postponed. Dr. T. Y. Simons, then offered the following: "*Resolved*, that the Medical Faculty be informed, that their protest was indefinitely postponed, because the Society deny the right of that body to enter a protest on the Journals."

Now Dr. Simons did so. He believed *conscientiously*, (and he was sustained by the opinion of medical gentlemen,) that the Faculty, *as a Faculty*, had no right to enter their protest on the Journal of the Society, although he admitted their right as members. Besides, he thought it absurd, that objections should be made to a form of election, in accordance with the Constitution of the Society, by which form, the Faculty, *themselves* had been elected, and in doing this, neither he, nor any member of the Society, had the remotest idea that any member of the Faculty would resign.

We will not presume to imitate Dr. Dickson, in attempting to decide upon the intricacies of the Law. We do, indeed, rest upon the Law, for we respect it and the opinions of our Judges. What motive could the Judges have to be biassed one side more than the other? The question was fairly discussed and elaborately argued by distinguished lawyers on both sides, and the decision deliberately given; but it would be presumptuous in us to discuss a subject which our studies do not enable us to decide and which requires the ablest jurists to explain. Nor do we pretend to be the defenders of such distinguished men as Judges O'Neill, Harper, and Johnson. *This* much, we will, however, say, that if the Professors had consented to remain under the auspices of the Society, the Building, Apparatus, &c. would still have been appropriated to their use. They thought proper, however, to place themselves under *other Trustees*, and therefore, have no persons but themselves to blame. Dr. Dickson has said "we may mistake, and if Judge O'Neill is right, have mistaken the law of the land, but we cannot be wrong in the opinion, that no such right could be maintained by the law of honour or moral equity." Now we reply, that if we could be made to believe for an instant that Dr. Dickson and his colleagues had either "by the law of honour or moral equity," a right to claim the Buildings, &c. as their *own*, we would be the last persons to co-operate in depriving them of it. But to put this matter at rest, we will shew from the Exposition, which has been carefully omitted in the Statements, that the Building, Apparatus, &c. were paid for by money granted by the City and State, and taxes on the Students for that very purpose.

"1st. The Professors knew that if they were elected—for when the law was passed they were simply members of the Society, they would have to bear all the expenses—but to meet these expenses, each Professor was allowed to charge each Student from fifteen to twenty dollars for their lectures, and five dollars for Matriculation or Entrance, and forty dollars for Graduation Fees.

"2dly. That these Professors were not the only persons willing to enter upon those duties under this contract, almost every Chair was warmly contested.

"3dly. That although to erect a small wooden building to Lecture in, the Professors had at first, to advance some money; say five or six thousand dollars,\* yet the first year they had fifty Students, whose Tickets, Matriculation and Graduation Fees, came up to that amount. Afterwards, fifteen thousand dollars were granted by the City, seventeen thousand by the State, and upwards of sixteen thousand for Matriculation and Graduation Fees, charged upon the Students, which the Medical Society allowed the Professors to take, for the express purpose of defraying incidental expenses. The aggregate of this, is forty-eight thousand dollars, which they have received to erect a Building, procure a Chemical Apparatus, obtain Anatomical Preparations, and for inci-

\* This is an error, the Building could not have cost more than \$1800.

dental expenses. The Building has been left in very bad repair. The Chemical Apparatus in an indifferent and deranged state, and very imperfect, and but a small Anatomical Museum. The building and all the apparatus, it is presumed, would not bring twenty thousand dollars; so far from the Professors spending their own money, they were lavish in the expenditure of the public money. Let us see how much they gained and divided among themselves, for their Lectures, for much has been said about their pecuniary sacrifices. From 1824 to 1832, there had been upwards of *nine hundred and fifty Students* who have attended the College, each of whom paid for the Tickets of the Lecturers, one hundred and five dollars. Multiply nine hundred and fifty by one hundred and five, and you will have *ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars*; deduct nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars for bad debts, and you will have *ninety thousand dollars*, which has been a clear profit divided among them since the establishment of the College. And if it had not been for the Medical Society, the Parent of the Medical College, whose President alone has the power of conferring Degrees, they could not have shared this profit. Thus, then, the Society gave them the opportunity of obtaining honour and pecuniary reward, for services which they volunteered and were anxious to perform, and it has received in return the abuse and contumely of those whom it patronized."

We maintain, then, 1st, That the College owed its existence to the Medical Society, and that the Professors received all their power and authority from that body.\* 2d. That the Society took away no right from the Professors, but that the Professors on the contrary, wished to deprive that body, which created them, of all power, and concentrate it in themselves.

Having made these general remarks, we will refer the reader to extracts from the Journals of the Society, in the Appendix, with comments on them, and supply some omissions in Dr. Dickson's partial Statements, that the public may see who were the actors in this controversy, and whether all these actors could have entered into a *conspiracy*, to deprive Dr. Dickson and his colleagues of their honours!

In conclusion, we feel we have the "*mens conscia recti*;" we would scorn to descend to any means unworthy the character of gentlemen; and whether our College succeed or not, we will do no act which would, in the slightest degree, lessen the elevated character of the Medical Profession. We join most cheerfully in the motto of Dr. Dickson—"palnam qui meruit ferat,"—it is a good one—may it always be kept steadily in view.

\* "This, then, is the present condition of the Medical College of South-Carolina, which it is desirable, that all connected with it should understand. It derives its powers as a College entirely and absolutely from the Medical Society of South-Carolina, the signatures of whose President and Vice-President are necessary to give authority to Diplomas.—Dr. Dickson's Introductory, p. 82.

We have thus replied to the "Statements," and have avoided, as far as circumstances would admit, personalities. We entered upon this duty with regret; but as members of the Medical Society, and Professors of the College under its patronage, the motives which were said to influence the Medical Society, would, as a matter of course, implicate *us* more than other members. Having now performed our duty, we will leave the decision of who is right or wrong, to an impartial public.

THOMAS Y. SIMONS, M. D.

*Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic.*

ANDREW HASELL, M. D.

*Professor of Materia Medica.*

HENRY ALEXANDER, M. D.

*Professor of Institutes of Medicine.*

WILLIAM HUME, M. D.

*Professor of Surgery.*





## APPENDIX.

### HISTORY OF OCCURRENCES

#### Relative to the Medical College.

*Extracted from the Minute Book of the Medical Society, in chronological order, in which Dr. Dickson's omissions are supplied.*

*March 1st, 1822.*—A communication was received from the Examining Board at Columbia, enclosing Dr. Cooper's Address, suggesting the establishment of a Medical School in the State ; referred to a committee of three, Drs. Joseph Johnson, Manning and M. Holbrook.

*April 1st.*—A letter from Dr. Cooper, on the same subject.

*May 1st.*—The committee report favorably, &c.

*July 1st.*—A second letter from Dr. Cooper.

*Nov. 22d.*—A committee of five appointed to prepare a memorial for the Legislature upon the incorporation and establishment of a Medical College.

[N. B. As Dr. Dickson has *chosen* to assert, that "not a *single* name of all those who took an active part in the proceedings which resulted in the foundation and success of the Medical College, is to be found in the long list of its present Professors and Trustees," it becomes necessary to detail the names of the members, who *were* present when the various propositions, in relation to the Medical College, were discussed. It would be invidious to mention who are the *friends*, and who the *enemies* of the Medical Society ; because we conceive that no man of delicate sensibility or refined feelings, would continue a member of a society to which he was personally hostile : and we would not, therefore, wound any individual, by attributing to him improperly, perhaps, the foul stigma of endeavoring to destroy, by his parasitic embrace, an institution that he was bound, in honor and honesty, to protect and cherish.]

At this meeting of the Society, the following members were present. Dr. J. Moultrie, Jun. President. Drs. Moultrie, Wilson, Manning, I. M. Wilson, Michel, Grimke, North, Waring, Fronte, Frost, T. G. Prioleau, T. Y. Simons, M. Holbrook, and Campbell. The *Committee* consisted of Drs. Moultrie, S. Wilson, Sen. Grimke, Waring and T. G. Prioleau.

*Nov. 25th.*—Memorial reported and adopted, &c. Present, Drs. Moultrie, Jun. S. Wilson, Sen. Manning, Joseph Johnson, I. M. Wilson, Michel, T. Y. Simons, Dickson, Ramsay, Greenland, Waring, T. G. Prioleau, Frost, Ravenel, Aikin, Grimke, James Glover and Campbell.

*Feb. 1st, 1823.*—Address made to the Society, on the establishment of a Medical School, by Dr. Dickson, and recommending a committee

for the purpose of preparing a report on the subject.\* Present, Drs. Moultrie, Jun. Dickson, Holbrook, Bailey, Ravenel, Joseph Johnson, T. G. Prioleau, Joseph Glover, Frost and Campbell. Committee, Drs. Dickson, Ramsay, T. G. Prioleau, Joseph Johnson, J. Moultrie, Jun. and Manning.

The committee offered the following Resolutions.

1st. That it is for the general good, and of advatage to the promotion of Medical science, that a School of Medicine and Surgery be established in this city.

2nd. That such an institution would be best established under the auspices of the Medical Society, by and with the aid and consent of the Legislature.

3rd. That the necessary steps towards the commencement of such a School, should be taken with as much expedition as is consistent with security and stability.

*April 1st.*—Committee† report, that they had applied, unsuccessfully, to the Charleston College, for the use of its charter to confer Medical

\* *Extract from Dr. Dickson's Address, 1st February, 1823.*

"If, then, we are satisfied, as we profess to be, of the importance of the establishment of a Medical School in this State; if we are convinced, as we must be, of the advantage. nay. I would say, the necessity of its location in the city, the only spot capable of affording opportunity for nourishment and growth, let us at once take the matter into our own hands; let us depend for success upon our own energy and efforts. *WE CANNOT FAIL, and success, however partial, will give us a right to aid from the community in general. and more particularly from the LEGISLATURE;* or, if complete, will remove entirely the need of assistance. \* \* \*

"Should our Institution acquire any degree of reputation, *as indeed it must and will, PROVIDED the affairs is governed by the MEDICAL SOCIETY,* and obtains the unanimous support and united effort of the profession in Charleston, and in the State generally, it will collect pupils from all the neighbouring country in numbers proportioned to the standing it shall acquire. \* \* \*

"If you agree with me, gentlemen, as to the importance of such Institution, the advantage of its location here, and of its being commenced at the present time, you will at once feel and perceive the propriety and the necessity of your acting as a body in its promotion.

"The Medical Society ALONE can effect the object. We are abundantly rich to do all that is sufficient, for little will be required; and our funds cannot be devoted to a better purpose. The expense of a lecture room, and of adequate apparatus, will be comparatively trifling; and your Professorships will be occupied by men less anxious for emolument than reputation: in fact, it is to be confidently hoped, that the number of pupils will soon be large enough to afford both.

"The Medical Society ALONE has the power to unite for this attempt, the efforts of the whole community. Its sanction carries with it a weight not possessed by no aggregate of unconnected individuals, however influential, separately. The Legislature of our State would confide to it, as a Board of Trustees of such an Institution, the right of granting formal Diplomas, far more willingly and cordially, than to any knot of persons recently united

"FINALLY, the Medical Society ALONE has the means of collecting and concentrating the influence and exertions of the profession in behalf of such an establishment—of obviating the ill effects of personal rivalry—of extinguishing petty jealousies—and of making the appointments to Professorships, with a single eye to the general good, so as to carry the plan into operation in the manner best calculated to secure its ultimate and permanent success."

† "The following is a part of the report of a committee of five, appointed by the Society, on the subject of establishing a Medical School in this city. This committee consisted of Drs. S. H. Dickson, Ramsay, Prioleau, Joseph Johnson, and James Moultrie, Jun. The report was made on the 1st April, 1823.

"It was distinctly stated in the last report as absolutely essential to the success of our enterprise, that we should in some way or other obtain at the very outset, the power of

degrees. The committee were then directed by the Society to apply to the Legislature for such an amendment of the charter of the Medical Society, as would constitute that Society a Medical School, with the power of conferring Medical degrees. Present, Drs. Moultrie, Sen. Holbrook, I. A. Johnson, Michel, Waring, Bailey, De La Motta, Porcher, T. G. Prioleau, Ravenel, S. Wilson, Sen. J. Moultrie, Jun. I. M. Wilson, Ramsay, Dickson, Frost and Campbell.

*Nov. 1st.*—Members present. Dr. Manning, President; Drs. Moultrie, Sen. S. Wilson, Glover, Moultrie, Jun. Waring, Holbrook, Michel, Bailey, Dickson, Prioleau, Philips, and Campbell. The Committee, on the establishment of a Medical School, report and recommend that the Society petition the Legislature so to amend their Charter as to constitute them a Medical College with the power of conferring degrees; and that one or more of the Charleston Delegation be engaged to attend to the interests of the Society at Columbia. Committee consisted of Drs. J. Manning, T. G. Prioleau, and J. Moultrie, Jun. Report adopted, and the *Officers of the Society appointed a Committee* to wait on as many of the delegation as they think proper; furnishing them with a copy of the following resolutions; and request them to give their friendly services to the interests of the Society during the coming session of the Legislature, &c. [Dr. Dickson, in his "Statements," makes no mention of this meeting of the Society; and yet, he asserts that this petition was received by the Legislature favourably, "thanks to the strenuous exertions of our friends."]

*Dec. 14th.*—Resolution of thanks and approbation offered by Dr. Campbell, and adopted by the Society, in reference to the courses of public lectures delivered by Drs. Ramsay and Dickson, during the preceding summer.

conferring MEDICAL DEGREES upon such students as should attach themselves to the School which might be established here. This being once arranged, it seems to us, that by great energy and perseverance on the part of those concerned, *all other obstacles, EVEN THE WANT OF FUNDS and of BUILDINGS might be got over.* We were sanguine too, in the expectation of *being able to effect such a junction with the Charleston College,* as would be honorable and advantageous to both parties, and would tend much to the fulfilment of our views. Our hopes, however, of any aid from this quarter *have been disappointed.* Nevertheless, your committee are too deeply impressed with the certainty of *great, permanent, and increasing good* from the establishment of a School of Medicine and Surgery among us, to be deterred from the steady prosecution of the plan, by the occurrence of these unforeseen difficulties. The means in our hands, though infinitely disproportioned to the importance of the proposed undertaking, may still suffice for a commencement, *could we but obtain* from the Legislature of our State such an Act of Incorporation as a COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, as would confer the power of granting diplomas. With these views your committee propose to you the following resolutions:

1st. That it is for the *general good*, and of advantage to the *promotion of Medical Science*, that a School of Medicine and Surgery be established in this city.

2nd. That such an institution, would be best established under the *auspices* of the *Medical Society*, by and with the aid and consent of the Legislature of South-Carolina.

3rd. That the necessary steps towards the commencement of such a School, should be taken with as much expedition as is consistent with security and stability.

4th. That one or more *members of the Society* be appointed to draw up a petition in the name of the *Society*, to the Legislature, at their next session, praying that the *power of conferring degrees in the Science of Medicine* be granted to, and vested in the *Society.* The petition to be laid before the Society for its approbation or correction, on the monthly meeting of the ensuing September, together with all such information as may in the mean time be collected on the subject of the contemplated petition."

*Jan. 1st, 1824.*\*—The appointment of a committee to organize the contemplated College, consisting of Drs. Dickson, T. G. Prioleau, Frost, Ravenel and J. Moultrie, Jun. Present, Drs. Manning, T. G. Prioleau, J. De La Motta, S. Wilson, Sen. Dickson, Campbell, Waring J. B. Irving, T. Y. Simons, Righton, Ravenel, Holbrook, Frost, S. Wilson, and Bailey.

*Feb. 2nd.*†—Report of the committee offered. Present, Drs. Manning, T. G. Prioleau, J. Ramsay, De La Motta, Moultrie, Sen. T. Y. Simons, Hall, I. M. Wilson, Dupont, Michel, Dickson Kirkland, Boylston, Akin, Porcher, Ravenel, Holbrook, Campbell, Moultrie, Jun. Bailey, Waring, Joseph Johnson, I. A. Johnson, P. G. Prioleau, Wilson, Sen. J. B. Irving, Frost and North.

*Feb. 3rd.*‡—Report of the committee continued and adopted. [Dr. Dickson is mistaken in his assertion, that the report was adopted at the previous meeting.] Present, Drs. Manning, T. G. Prioleau, Ramsay, De La Motta, Campbell, Frost, Waring, Michel, Moultrie, Sen. Moultrie, Jun. Joseph Johnson, I. A. Johnson, T. Y. Simons, Boylston, Dickson, I. M. Wilson, Logan, and Porcher.

*April 12th, 1824.*—Obligation of Professors, offered by Dr. Joseph Johnson, and adopted by the Society, at the regular meeting, March, 1st, 1824.

\* "On the 1st January, 1824, Dr. Samuel Henry Dickson proposed the following Resolutions, which were affirmatively carried.

Resolved, That it is expedient to establish a School of Medicine and Surgery in this city, under the control and direction of the *Medical Society*, and that the necessary steps be taken without delay.

Resolved, That a committee of five shall be appointed by the President, whose duty it shall be to lay before the Society at its next meeting, such plan for the formation of a Medical School, as they may deem worthy the consideration of the Society. Their report to embrace the most minute and particular arrangement in order to have the whole subject in all its details, before the Society.

† Dr. Dickson, Chairman of the Committee on the Medical College, presented and read a report. (Extract as follows.)

"It cannot, however, be denied, that there exists certain difficulties in the way of any plan that can be offered for the formation of a Medical School, under present circumstances. The chief and most pressing of them, the one indeed which includes all the rest, and from which they all spring, is the want of money. The funds of the Society it is too well known, are not in a condition to allow of its extending any considerable pecuniary patronage to the proposed seminary, without exhibiting a degree of generosity inconsistent with prudence. Yet your committee are satisfied that even this serious obstacle is by no means insurmountable; they are confident that in any event, your professors elect will take upon themselves, willingly, the burden of the expenses of the establishment; they cannot believe that there is among us a single individual, who if chosen among from the rest for the fulfillment of so high a trust, the accomplishment of so desirable an object, would not freely, contribute his share of the necessary expenditures. Your Committee have, therefore, left this subject altogether for the determination of the *Lecturers or Professors*, whom you may hereafter appoint."

‡ Proceeding, continued from an adjourned meeting.—Your Committee respectfully recommend, that the Students attending the School be allowed the use of the Library, on paying five dollars per annum to the Treasurer, and giving such security against loss, abuse, or injury, either personal or pecuniary, as shall be satisfactory to the Book Committee.

Your Committee would further recommend, that immediate application be made to the City Council, stating the very great advantage which would in all probability result, from the consolidation of the two public Institutions under its care, viz. the Alm-House and Marine Hospital, and the delegating to the Society the right of electing the attending Physician and Surgeon to these establishments.



“Resolved, that the several Professors who shall be elected in conformity with the resolutions of the Society, adopted on the 3rd February last; before entering on the duties of their office, and within four weeks after notice of their election, shall subscribe the following obligation :

We, the undersigned; elected by the Medical Society of South-Carolina, to the several professorships annexed to our respective names, do solemnly pledge to each other, to the Society, and to the public, our word and honor as men, that we will duly and at all times, to the best of our ability, faithfully and diligently fulfil all the duties attached to the chairs to which we respectively have been appointed. We further agree, that on failing to do so, according to the literal intent and meaning of this obligation, the chairs shall be considered vacant, and the Society at liberty to fill the same.”

(Signed by the Professors.)

These are the facts in relation to the *establishment* of the Medical College of South-Carolina. We shall now proceed to give, from the same source, the Minute Book of the Medical Society, the “History of the Occurrences” which led to the secession, as in fact it was, or, if the gentlemen prefer the term, to the dismissal of the original Faculty.

May 1st, 1829.—*A member of the Faculty was impeached by his colleagues.*—[This fact is conclusive in regard to the conviction of the Faculty, that they, *then*, considered themselves *dependent* on the Medical Society; in other words, its *agents*. If they had conceived themselves endowed with sufficient power to act *their will* against the individual to whom it is our painful *duty* to allude, undoubtedly they *would have done so*, without either consulting the Medical Society, or *abiding, as they did*, by its decision. The Society *rejected* their accusation, and *this*, we believe to be the first source of their discontent; “*Hinc illæ lachrymæ.*”]

Present, Dr. T. Y. Simons, President, Drs. Bellinger, De La Motta, Moultrie, Sen. Holbrook, Waring, Logan, Geddings, I. A. Johnson, T. G. Prioleau, Buist, Dickson, Strobel, Bailey, Moultrie, Jun. Pratt, Finley, Inglesby, Porcher, J. E. Holbrook, Campbell, Phillips, Michel, Winthrop, Joseph Johnson, Ramsay, Frost, G. Logan, Ravenel, North, and Aikin. The committee appointed to investigate the charges, consisted of Drs. J. Moultrie, jun. F. Y. Porcher, North, J. Johnson, and G. Logan.

July 1st, 1829.—Resolved, That it is expedient for the Medical Society to elect seven members to perform the duties, which were assigned to the honorary members, at the first organization of the Medical College.

Resolved, That the Secretary *give notice* that the above resolution will be *considered at the next meeting*.

December 1st, 1829.—The following gentlemen were appointed Trustees, Drs. J. Moultrie, Jun. Porcher, Waring, J. Johnson, B. B. Simons, P. G. Prioleau and I. M. Campbell. [No objection offered by the Faculty, who, be it remembered, were, and *are*, all members of the Society !]

July, 1831.—Dr. Ramsay resigned the chair of Surgery. Dr. J. Moultrie, Jun. moved, that Dr. Ramsay’s resignation be published in



the prints of the city, and in one paper of five of the principal cities in the Union; and that public notification be at the same time given, that the Society will proceed to fill the vacancy, at the next regular meeting.

*August, 1831.*—Present, Drs. I. M. Campbell, Porcher, Bellinger, Lee, Alexander, Ball, Boylston, Deas, Dickson, Finley, Frost, Geddings, Grimke, H. C. Glover, J. Glover, Hall, Hasel, Holbrook, M. Holbrook, Horlbeck, H. Holmes, William Holmes, Howard, Hunt, Hume, I. A. Johnson, J. Johnson, J. F. Lee, D. Legare, Lesigneux, Linning, Mazyck, J. Moultrie, Sen. J. Moultrie, Jun. North, P. G. Prioleau, T. G. Prioleau, Pratt, Ramsay, Ravenel, Read, Righton, B. B. Simons, T. Y. Simons, Smith, Stephens, Wagner, Waring, and Winthrop.

[The Society, in conformity with ample notice previously given, entered into the election of a Professor of Surgery. There were two candidates, Dr. Eli Geddings, and Dr. John Wagner. The *Faculty* preferred the former, and voted for him *unanimously*, the majority of the Society were, however, in favour of the latter; and as the power of election happened to be vested in the *Society*, Dr. Wagner was accordingly elected, by three votes. *Here*, was another fruitful source of tears for the Faculty.]

*September 5th.*—Present, Drs. Campbell, Bellinger, Lee, Ball, Finley, Frost, Gadsden, Geddings, Holbrook, Howard, Hunt, W. Holmes, I. A. Johnson, Lesigneux, McDonald, J. Moultrie, Ravenel, T. Y. Simons, Smith, Waring and Winthrop.

Dr. Ravenel offered a *protest* against the *principles* that regulated the late election of the Professor of Surgery. After some discussion, on motion of Dr. Waring, it was Resolved, that, in order to allow sufficient time for deliberation on so important a topic, the further consideration of the protest be postponed to the next stated meeting of the Society, which was agreed to.

[Dr. Geddings proposed himself as a candidate, and was *unanimously* elected, Professor of Pathological and Surgical Anatomy. This fact is the only reply we deem necessary to Dr. Dickson's charge against the Medical Society, that it elected Dr. Wagner, not from any friendship or good will to *him*, but because the election of Dr. Geddings would have been an immediate and permanent advantage to the Faculty. As to Dr. Wagner, we leave the decision between him and his conscience, whether he really soon felt, as Dr. Dickson intimates, that such were the motives, which governed the Society in electing him!]

*October 1st.*—The minutes of the preceding meeting read and confirmed, including the Protest of the Medical Faculty. On motion of Dr. Hunt, Resolved, that the consideration of the Protest of the Faculty be indefinitely postponed. Dr. T. Y. Simons then offered the following resolution, "Resolved, that the Faculty be informed that the Protest was indefinitely postponed, because the Society deny the right of that body to enter a protest upon its Journal."

*November 14th.*—Present, Drs. Campbell, Bellinger, Ball, Alexander, Winthrop, Horlbeck, Finley, Deas, Lee, Whitridge, Lesigneux, T. Y. Simons, Moultrie, sen. Holbrook, Ramsay, Gadsden, M. Holbrook, Holmes, Frost, I. A. Johnson. Meeting called at the request of Drs. Dickson, Prioleau and Wagner, a Committee from the Faculty of the Medical

missing pages 25-26



read in the Medical Society. His letter of resignation was, "verbatim, such as we have given it above.]"

It was proposed by Dr. T. Y. Simons, and adopted, that the consideration of the letter be postponed.

Dr. Joseph Johnson submitted the following Resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That a committee of five be appointed to inquire, if any, and what, amendments may be advisable in the rules of the Society regulating the Medical College. The committee consisted of Drs. Joseph Johnson, P. G. Prioleau, J. Moultrie, Jun. F. Y. Porcher, and T. Y. Simons, to which the President, Dr. Campbell, was added.

July 12th.—Dr. Johnson made a report which was accepted, and copies ordered to be printed, and distributed among the members.

April 1st, 1833.—The President, Dr. F. Y. Porcher, informed the Society, that he had been informed, the College was closed against the admission of any one without permission. On which, he addressed a note to Dr. T. G. Prioleau, Dean of the Faculty. On receiving his answer, he convened the Board of Trustees, and called for the reading of the Minutes of the Board. Upon which, Dr. Joseph Johnson submitted the following resolutions, which were adopted.

1. Resolved, That the Faculty of the Medical College having appointed a Janitor to take care of the College, and its appurtenances, with instructions to exclude *all* persons not having a written permission from the *Dean*, have, by such instructions, *violated their trust and exceeded their power*.

2. Resolved, That the Faculty having by their instructions to the Janitor, excluded the Trustees of the College charged with the care of the same, and one of the Faculty appointed to lecture therein, shall hereafter cease to have any power to appoint a Janitor.

3. Resolved, That an agent be immediately appointed by this Society to hold the College subject to the instructions and future arrangement of the Board of Trustees.

4. Resolved, That the President be authorized with the aid of their attorney to adopt, and pursue any measures that may be necessary to obtain the possession and control of the College, and retain it for all the purposes of the Institution.

We here conclude our Extracts from the Minute Book of the Medical Society, in relation to the establishment and history of the Medical College of South-Carolina. These records we fear have been so voluminous as to exhaust the patience of our readers. But they will be kindly indulgent to our prolixity of *facts*, when they reflect that upon THEM are founded our complete and triumphant refutation of the more than machiavelian subtlety which our opponents have employed in making the "worse appear the better reason," and in decking sophistry in the vestments of truth.

If our deductions are not false, we have proved conclusively,

1st. That the Medical College of South-Carolina was established SOLELY and ENTIRELY by the MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH-CAROLINA.

2nd. That the former Faculty were, and *acknowledged themselves to be*, at the establishment of the College, and for *several years afterwards*, the agents of the MEDICAL SOCIETY, deriving all their power, as a *Faculty* from the MEDICAL SOCIETY, owing their existence to the MEDICAL SOCIETY, capable of being *tried*, convicted, and EXPELLED from their *office*, by the MEDICAL SOCIETY, *incapable* of conferring degrees, without the assent of the MEDICAL SOCIETY. It must be a singular mortification to Dr. Dickson that he has *himself* afforded us more than sufficient foundation for all these *facts*, which it has been the effort of his last pamphlet to overthrow. Facts, however, are *stubborn* things, and when, after having employed them for ONE purpose, we endeavor to *bend* them, so as to subserve ANOTHER and an OPPOSITE one, it is ten to one but we are *prostrated* by the elasticity of their *re-bound* !

3rd. That the first cause of discontent exhibited by the Faculty was produced by the refusal of the Society to condemn one of their own colleagues, whom THEY THEMSELVES had brought before the SOCIETY for trial.

4th. That the Faculty accepted their Professorships, under the *express* proviso, that they were to furnish the funds necessary to the undertaking, as the revenue of the Society was inadequate to that purpose, and that every cent which has been expended, has been derived from the City and State, and taxes on the Students allowed by the Society, for the disbursement of incidental expenses, &c. &c.

5th. That many other individuals were candidates for, and would willingly have accepted the chairs under the *same* conditions.

6th. That, so far from being *losers*, by their connexion with the Medical Society, as its agents, they have been extensive GAINERS, not only in *reputation*, (which they could not have acquired by any means so readily, as by the situation to which the preference of the Society elevated them,) but also in pecuniary emoluments, *directly* received as *Agents* of the Society ; in other words, as Professors in the Medical College of South-Carolina ;—and yet they say, they owe the Society no gratitude !

7th. That the second cause of discontent of the Faculty was the election of Dr. Wagner to the Professorship of Surgery, in the *same* manner and by the *same* Body, the Medical Society, by which THEY had THEMSELVES been elected.

8th. That in consequence of this legitimate exercise of its undoubted rights, the Society was presented with a memorial from the Faculty, through their Dean, protesting against the principles which governed the late election of Professor of Surgery, and asserting that they have the *moral right* of determining who *ought*, and who *ought not to share with them*, the advantages and privileges, the honor and reputation, which cost them the best years of their lives ! In reading this protest, in which "the Faculty" first assumed an existence independent of the Society,



and the very modest privilege of dictating who should be their coadjutors and successors, their heirs, administrators and assigns,

To laugh were want of goodness and of grace,  
Yet to be grave, exceeds all power of face.

Can any reasonable being wonder that the Medical Society refused to have such an *ebullition* of spleen and arrogance recorded on its Journal?

9th. That the Faculty (finding that the Medical Society, instead of being a mere *automaton*, of which THEY were to regulate the springs and govern the movements, was in fact a body endowed with all the properties of vitality, and that it was *especially* conscious of its rights in regard to *them*, and *determined to maintain them*, with *moderation* yet with *firmness*,) resolved to throw off the salutary restraint, to assume an independent existence, to rid themselves of the power which had *FOSTERED* their *infancy*, but which, now that they had reached *maturity*, by ITS *AID*, they regarded as an incubus! They accordingly applied to the Legislature for a separate Charter; and that body granted them an act of incorporation, by which the College was to be governed by a Board of Trustees, composed of six members appointed by the Medical Society, and six members appointed by the Governor of the State, and the President of the Medical Society was to be, *ex-officio*, President of the Board. Now, upon this simple statement it would seem that the Faculty had been extremely modest in their petition to the Legislature, (provided the term modesty be at all applicable to such a transaction!) but we are undeceived in this favourable impression (which was only thrown out as a *tub to the whale*) by the following clause which we find in the fourth section of the "Act." The said Board of Trustees shall have power to make all lawful and proper rules and by-laws for the government and regulation of themselves, and of the said College, *provided that* THOSE which effect THE COLLEGE shall be subject to a concurrent vote of the FACULTY; and of the Trustees! Was there ever more complete machiavelism than this! *What subject could* be brought before the Trustees of a *Medical College* for consideration in which the *College* was *not* effected? And, therefore, *what* subject in which the *Faculty would not have a concurrent vote*? The Society, to whom this act was referred, considered it as an unmerited reproach thrown upon them, a direct, and unconstitutional violation of their charter, and resolved, we believe unanimously, to appeal from it to the highest tribunal of justice which our laws acknowledge—the Supreme Court of the State, the Court of Appeals. This Court consisted then, as it does now, of three distinguished individuals, Judges Johnson, O'Neill and Harper. The two former decided in favour of the Medical Society; the latter, we believe, gave no opinion.

10th. After this decision, the Faculty, with the exception, of Dr. Dickson, who resigned, remained in the School, and were, *during one whole session*, under the governance of the Medical Society. The Members of the Society now believed, what they wished, that the Faculty, having been unsuccessful in obtaining their ends, would submit to reason and

the laws of their country. But this was, by no means, their intention. The temporary calm only portended a storm; and the Legislature again granted them a charter by which they were rendered entirely independent of the Medical Society. Upon this act of *Legislation*, we shall make no comments. Thus terminated the connexion between the former Faculty and the Medical Society.

We have thus replied, to every thing like argument in Dr. Dickson's Statement. As to his inuendos in regard to the smallness of our Class, this year, our reply is

“Taci, e lascia volger gli anni.”

F I N I S.